

March 25, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO), Ranking Member of the Seapower and Expeditionary Forces Subcommittee, released the following statement in response to indications that the Department of Defense may proceed with an F/A-18 Super Hornet multiyear contract:

“I have been urging the Department of Defense to use a multiyear contract to buy F-18’s for the last two years. It is encouraging to see an increased willingness from Secretary Gates to consider an F-18 multiyear. A multiyear contract will save taxpayers and the U.S. Navy roughly half a billion dollars while providing stability for the great folks of St. Louis who build the planes. A multiyear contract is a win for taxpayers, for the Navy and for St. Louis.

“I urge Secretary Gates to push forward with a multiyear. With the Navy’s strike fighter shortfall only getting worse, a stable and affordable F-18 program is an important way to reduce risk for the Navy. A failure to enter into a multiyear contract would raise serious questions about the priorities of senior DoD leaders.”

Yesterday, Congressman Akin asked questions of Ashton Carter, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, and Sean Stackley, the Assistant Secretary

of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. To see Akin's questioning of these witness, go to his YouTube page:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/RepToddAkin>